Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any of the original unamended claims presented in this application at a later date in one or more continuing applications.

1.-7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A heat shield arrangement for a hot-gas conducting structure, comprising:

a support structure;

a first heat shield element having a groove arranged toward a surface of the first heat shield element that faces the hot gas and is anchored to the support structure;

a third heat shield element having a groove arranged toward a surface of the third heat shield element that faces the hot gas and arranged non-adjacent to the first heat shield element and anchored to the support structure;

a second heat shield element arranged between to the first heat shield element and the third heat shield element and having a groove arranged toward a surface of the second heat shield element that faces the hot gas;

~~a plurality of shield elements arranged adjacently on the support structure and anchored to the support structure to cover a surface, at least two adjacent heat shield elements having at least one lateral groove arranged in a region of an edge of the surface facing the hot gas; and~~

a first seal element arranged in the groove of the first heat shield element and connecting the first heat shield element ~~elements~~ with the second heat shield element, the first seal element and the ~~grooves~~ groove contoured and dimensioned such that the first seal element is adapted to be swiveled from an open position to a closed position through an intermediary position in the ~~grooves~~ groove during movement of ~~at least one of~~ the second heat shield ~~elements~~ element vertically ~~with respect to its surface facing the hot gas~~; and

a second seal element arranged in the groove of the third heat shield element and connecting the third heat shield element with the second heat shield element, the second seal element and the groove contoured and dimensioned such that the second seal element is adapted

to be swiveled from an open position to a closed position through the intermediary position in the groove during movement of the second heat shield element vertically,

wherein in the open position the first and second seal elements are not connected with the second heat shield element, in the intermediary position the first and second seal elements are connected with the second heat shield element and the second heat shield element is spaced from the support structure, and in the closed position the first and second seal elements are engaged with the second heat shield element.

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the seal element has ~~an~~ a substantially C-shaped cross-section.

10. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the seal element is a bent plate.

11. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 10, wherein the plate comprises sheet metal.

12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 9, wherein the seal element is adapted to be retained in an open position without a sealing effect as a consequence of the longitudinal slot embodied through the C-shaped cross-section.

13. (currently amended) A method for producing a heat shield arrangement, comprising:

providing a support structure;

providing a plurality of shield elements arranged adjacently on the support structure and anchored to the support structure to cover a surface, at least two adjacent heat shield elements having at least one lateral groove arranged in a region of an edge of the surface facing the hot gas;

providing at least one seal element installed in the groove and connecting the heat shield elements, the seal element and the grooves contoured and dimensioned such that the seal element is adapted to be swiveled from an open position to a closed position through an intermediary

position in the grooves during movement of at least one of the heat shield elements vertically with respect to its surface facing the hot gas;

anchoring a first and a second heat shield element on the support structure leaving a space for a third heat shield element so that the groove of the first heat shield element is situated opposite the groove of the second heat shield element;

installing a seal element in each case in the groove of the first and of the second heat shield element in such a way that the seal element is retained in the open ~~the first~~ position;

moving the third heat shield element having in each case a groove on opposite sides into the space in the direction of the support structure with a seal element in each case protruding into one of these grooves;

displacing the seal element in each case ~~into the second position~~ from the open position to the closed position through the intermediary position due to the movement (B) of the third heat shield element; and

anchoring the third heat shield element on the support structure

wherein in the open position the first and second seal elements are not connected with the second heat shield element, in the intermediary position the first and second seal elements are connected with the second heat shield element and the second heat shield element is spaced from the support structure, and in the closed position the first and second seal elements are engaged with the second heat shield element.

14. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 9, wherein the seal element is a bent plate.

15. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 10, wherein the seal element is adapted to be retained in an open position without a sealing effect as a consequence of the longitudinal slot embodied through the C-shaped cross-section.

16. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 11, wherein the seal element is adapted to be retained in an open position without a sealing effect as a consequence of the longitudinal slot embodied through the C-shaped cross-section.

17. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the hot-gas conducting structure is a metal component of a gas turbine unit.

18. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the hot-gas conducting structure is a combustion chamber.

19. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 13, wherein the hot-gas conducting structure is a metal component of a gas turbine unit.

20. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim 13, wherein the hot-gas conducting structure is a combustion chamber.

21. (new) The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the first and second seal elements are adapted to be swiveled from the closed position to the open position.

22. (new) The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein a continuous heat shield is formed from a plurality of heat shield elements and seal elements.

23. (new) The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the spacing between the first heat shield element and the second heat shield element and the spacing between the second heat shield element and the third heat shield element remains about the same when the second heat shield element is being moved vertically while the first and third heat shield elements are anchored to the support structure.

24. (new) The heat shield arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the second heat shield element can be removed with the first and third heat shield elements anchored to the support structure.

25. (new) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the seal element is displaced from the closed position to the open position due to the vertical movement of the second heat shield element.